GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2477
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2012
CHILDREN IN CIRCUS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Apex Court has directed the Union Government to raid circuses across the country to rescue the children put up in squalid conditions and forced to perform dangerous stunts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has issued any directions to the State Governments in pursuance of the directions issued by the Apex Court for the rescue and rehabilitation of such children;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therfor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH)

(a) & (b): Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgment dated 18.4.2011 in Writ Petition (Civil) Number 51/2006 in the matter of Bachpan Bachao Andolan Vs. Union of India & Others, inter-alia, directed the Union of India and the State Governments to conduct simultaneous raids in all the circuses to liberate the children and to frame a proper scheme for the rehabilitation of rescued children.

(c) to (e): Vide Gazette Notification Number S.O.2469 (E) dated 8.10.2010, Government of India already, by way of amendment in Schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, prohibits the employment of children in the occupation of
(i) Circus and
(ii) Caring of Elephants. Any person who employs a child in any occupation or process where employment of children is prohibited under the Child Labour Act, is liable for punishment with imprisonment or with fine. The Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme since 1988 with focus on the rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes.